

Lesson
4

Punctuating Quotations

Teaching

A **direct quotation** is a speaker's exact words. Use quotation marks at the beginning and at the end of a direct quotation.

"Chicken pox is a contagious disease," the doctor said.

Use commas to set off the explanatory words used with a direct quotation, at the beginning, middle, or end of the quotation.

The doctor said, "Chicken pox is a contagious disease."

"Chicken pox," the doctor said, "is a contagious disease."

If the quotation itself is a question or exclamation, the question mark or exclamation point should be placed inside the end quotation marks. Commas and periods always go inside the end quotation marks.

"Wait!" Mom objected. "Did you remember to take your medicine?"

If the quotation is part of a question or exclamation, the question mark or exclamation point should be placed outside the end quotation marks.

Did the doctor say, "You need to have a booster shot"?

A **divided quotation** is a direct quotation that is divided into two parts by explanatory words. Both parts are enclosed in quotation marks. The first word in the second part is not capitalized unless it begins a sentence. Review the above examples to see how to punctuate and capitalize a divided quotation.

A **dialogue** is a conversation between two or more speakers. When writing dialogue, indicate a change in speaker by using a new paragraph and a new set of quotation marks.

"Mrs. Abdalla," the doctor asked, "how long have you had this cough?"

"Well, I have felt sick for over a week," Mrs. Abdalla replied.

An **indirect quotation** is a restatement, in somewhat different words, of what someone said. Do not use quotation marks to set off an indirect quotation.

The doctor told me that I should start feeling better soon.

Using Quotation Marks

Add quotation marks where necessary in each of these sentences.

1. Angela asked, Did you hear that Julian has pneumonia?
2. Did she say, I was sick with the flu last weekend?
3. Ouch! the child wailed. That shot hurt!
4. Kyle, asked Quinn, was your ankle surgery a success?
5. I was hospitalized for bronchitis last year, said Adrian.
6. Oh! Kristen moaned. I don't feel well.
7. Dave had to leave school early yesterday, reported Joshua, because he felt sick.
8. Can you give me information about visiting hours? Megan asked the receptionist. Are there any age limits for visitors?

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More Practice

A. Writing Sentences with Quotation Marks

Add quotation marks, commas, and end marks where necessary in each sentence. If the sentence is correct as is, circle the numeral before the sentence.

1. I can't wait to visit my cousin in the hospital next week said Monica.
2. The patient stated Dr. Saito has Lyme disease.
3. The doctor announced I plan to treat her infection with antibiotics.
4. Did Terryn say I'm having my tonsils removed next month?
5. Wait! cried Hector. Do I really need to have an operation?
6. Is a throat culture dangerous? asked Mike.
No the doctor said. It is a very common procedure.
7. Shaquille wants to know when his stitches will be removed.
8. Did the patient say Don't forget to sign my cast?
9. When will you feel well enough to come back to school asked Mr. Garvey.
10. Lindsey said I have to take my medicine every day because I have an ear infection.

B. Using Quotation Marks

Add the necessary quotation marks to the dialogue below.

Did you hear? David said, Connie broke her leg yesterday in the soccer game.

How long will she have to be in a cast? asked Eric.

About six weeks, replied David. The doctor said it was a clean break and should heal quickly.

Jodie asked, Can we all sign her cast when she comes back to school tomorrow?

Sure, said David. Maybe we can have a cast-signing party. That should cheer her up!

Great! Eric said. Then when she gets it off, she can keep it and always remember our last soccer game!

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Rewrite the following sentences, using quotation marks, commas, and end marks correctly.

1. Mindy said I'd like to go visit a friend who is in the hospital because of scarlet fever.

2. What is strep throat asked Caitlin. And how will Sasha get rid of it.

3. Lisa will most likely have a slow recovery, or so her doctor says explained Aida.

4. You have to get better soon, so we can go play basketball again stated Malcolm.

5. Did you hear the doctor say, Nicholas has the most unusual case of poison ivy I have ever seen.

B. Writing with Quotation Marks

Write a short dialogue that you might overhear in a hospital waiting room. Make sure that you indicate clearly who is speaking. Use quotation marks and other punctuation marks correctly.
